

BIGFOOT BULLETIN

August 31, 1970

No. 20

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BASIN GULCH EXPEDITION - AUGUST 11-20, 1970

On August 11, 1970, Ben E. Foster Jr., Sharon Gorden and Richard Foster, 13, all of Red Bluff, California, were camped in the Basin Gulch campground in the Trinity National Forest, Shasta County, California, one half mile south of the Harrison Gulch Ranger Station. They were camped in the same campsite where Archie Buckley heard the footfalls and found tracks on May 14th. Although this was primarily a fishing trip, they set out bait hoping to perhaps attract a Bigfoot, using fish, spoiled raw chicken and vegetables. Their report of their experiences there, as told to George F. Haas, follows :

Between 8:00 and 8:15 P.M. on the 11th, about dusk, Sharon spotted a Bigfoot watching the campsite from the hill above camp at a distance of about 150 feet and called Ben's attention to it. Ben then started walking along a little skidroad up the ravine toward it. The creature moved over to the right side of the ravine and stopped, facing Ben. Ben took another few steps forward. The creature then slowly brought its right hand up to its shoulder and tossed a large rock, weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., in Ben's direction from a distance of about 75 feet. Ben feels that the creature wasn't actually trying to hit him but threw the rock as a warning. The rock landed 6 or 7 feet to the left of Ben and a few feet ahead of him. Evidently the creature had been carrying the rock because Ben did not see it pick it up. Ben then turned and walked rapidly back to the camp and the whole party got into the car. In the meantime the creature had retreated up the ravine.

At about 8:30 Ben and Richard got out of the car and started up the trail hoping to get another glimpse of the creature but they saw nothing. Meanwhile, back at the camp, Sharon was still sitting in the car. Glancing over to the right, she saw a creature approaching rapidly. Apparently spotting her, it stopped about 30 feet away. When she tried to start the car the creature fled back into the woods. Ben and Richard, on hearing the sounds of the car starting, ran down toward it but the creature was gone when they arrived.

Building up a large fire, the party sat around that until about 10:30 P.M. During that period the dark forms of several creatures could be seen in the timber above camp. At least 4 different sets of eyes could be seen glowing red in the darkness. Sharon and Richard reported seeing the eyes of two creatures crossing the meadow north of camp.

At approximately 10:30 Sharon got into the car while Ben and Richard stretched out in their sleeping bags near the fire. At about 4:30 A.M. Sharon was awakened by three or four loud thuds or footfalls and on looking out saw the dark form of something standing about a foot from the car. The creature reached across the wide hood of the car and flipped the car's radio antenna on which Ben's shirt was hanging. It then

walked away into the darkness. Sharon was afraid to cry out, turn on the lights or sound the horn, fearing it might startle the creature and cause it to harm the boys. They slept through the entire incident.

The next morning 9 good clear footprints were found in the dirt on the fire trail on the hill above camp and across the ravine. Several hundred possible tracks were seen in the heavy mulch between the trees. Four exceptionally fine casts were made of the best footprints.

On the evening of August 12th, at about 8:30 P.M., Sharon saw two sets of eyes up the skidroad toward the ravine. Ben then walked up the skidroad and saw one creature at a distance of about 75 feet facing him. The creature made a gesture by moving its right hand from its hips outward. Ben then did the same thing. They exchanged such gestures three or four times. The creature crouched low and Ben followed suit, each continuing to make gestures. The creature then stood up, turned and walked three or four steps away. It turned and made one final gesture. Ben responded and walked slowly back to camp.

Shortly after the hand gesture exchange, or at about 9:00 P.M., Archie Buckley, his son Bill Buckley and George F. Haas arrived at the campsite in response to a telephone call. They apparently frightened the creatures away because no more sightings were made that night or during the following days and nights.

The creatures were described by Ben, Sharon and Richard as being about 8 to 10 feet tall, weighing approximately 500 to 800 pounds, heavily built and dark in color except for one Sharon saw which was light in color. There was no hair on the face and little if any on the chest. When standing upright the arms hung down to mid-thigh. The head was egg-shaped rather than round with little or no point or crest. Ears were not evident, apparently hidden by the short hair on the head. Hair was short on the front of the head but longer on the back and was perhaps 2 to 4 inches long all the way down the back. Skin on the face appeared to be a dark chocolate color. Eyes were small, round and deep-set beneath a heavy brow ridge. Eyes glowed red in the light of the campfire after dark.

During the following days several other people joined the party at the campsite, among them Mr. & Mrs. J. Foster, Ben's uncle and aunt of Red Bluff and Warren Thompson of Redwood City. Mr. William Hampton, taxidermist of nearby Platina, together with Mr. John Steele who lives a quarter mile up the road, visited the campsite one day and examined the casts, the tracks and the other physical evidence found.

On the 15th. J. Foster found the front half of the carcass of a small spotted fawn on the hillside about 200 yards eastward from camp across the creek. On the previous night the party at camp had heard a scream and the bleat of something in terror in that direction. The carcass appeared to have been torn apart but almost as cleanly as if it had been cut with a cleaver. Heart, lungs and liver were missing but the intestines were found about 10 feet away. About 100 feet to the north 5 or 6 clear Bigfoot prints were found in a deer trail. Near them a pile of dung, unlike that of any known animal in the region according to Mr. Hampton and Mr. Steele, was found and collected. South of the carcass, about 100 feet away, Archie Buckley found where the kill had apparently been made. Large tracks in the heavy mulch told the story. A large heavy creature had evidently stood behind a large tree beside the trail and grabbed the fawn as it went by. No blood was found, however.

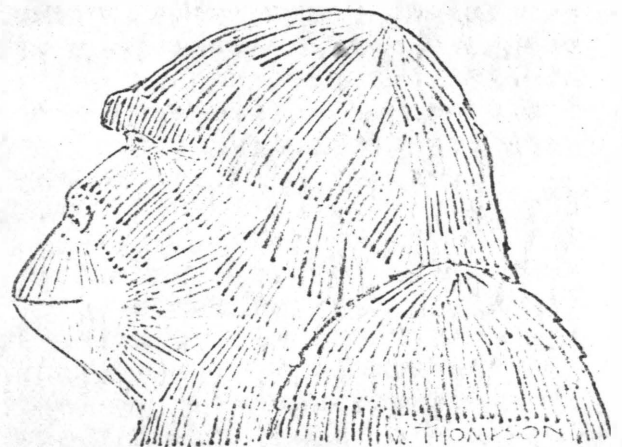
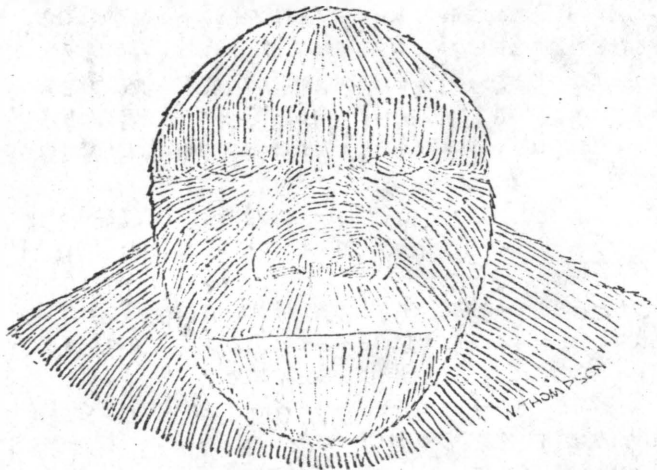
Various members of the party made numerous trips daily - and sometimes at night- into the surrounding countryside looking for tracks and

other evidence. They went up the various ridges leading down into the basin, up the creek toward the Bland Ranch, and along the many roads and deer trails. Ben and George found a dozen fairly clear Bigfoot tracks on a deer trail about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up the ridge to the west. The tracks were headed toward the campsite.

Deer were extremely numerous in the surrounding area. Deer trails were everywhere and some of the main ones were deep-cut, dusty and obviously well-traveled daily. The deer were evidently concentrated in the area for the current crop of acorns.

It was the opinion of most members of the party that the Bigfeet were in the area hunting deer. Besides the kill of the fawn, this was suggested by other evidence. Almost nightly screams and calls could be heard on the ridges above camp, mostly to the east and west. It seemed evident that the creatures were working together, at least in pairs. One would scream to frighten the deer who would then panic and flee along the main deer trails where another creature would be in ambush to grab them as they went by. Or, perhaps, to down them by throwing a rock. Several places were found where a large tree stood beside a well-traveled deer run. Scuff marks and tracks in the heavy mulch attested to the possibility that these were ambush points.

SKETCHES OF THE CREATURES SEEN AT THE BASIN GULCH CAMPGROUND. DRAWN BY WARREN THOMPSON FROM DESCRIPTIONS GIVEN BY BEN E. FOSTER JR. AND SHARON GORDEN.



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EXPEDITION NEWS

The KEN KRASNEY EXPEDITION of eleven members is currently based at a camp near the junction of Notice Creek and Bluff Creek in the Six Rivers National Forest, California. We have not heard from them since they went in there. They plan on staying in that area until Sept. 22.

EXPEDITION NEWS

We have no further word on the MORGAN EXPEDITION other than that they are still in Florida raising funds for their proposed second expedition.

WARREN THOMPSON of Redwood City, California, spent most of July on a motorcycle trip through northern California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia visiting other Bigfoot hunters and investigating sighting reports.

A group of young men calling themselves the HUNGUSLAND CONFEDERATION, based in or around Pomona, California, plan an expedition to the Three Sisters Wilderness area in Oregon in September. The leader, Nick E. Campbell, received his draft notice so will be unable to go. However, the second in command, J.L. Browning, together with William Combs and Thomas Hamm, will make the trip between September 4 and 11, checking "hot leads".

RENE DAHINDEN and PETER MUTRIE left by float plane on August 5th to fly into the Pitt Lake area of British Columbia, about 40 miles northeast of Vancouver. They plan on staying in that area Sasquatch hunting until the middle of October or as long as weather permits. Two prospectors had a sighting in that area in 1965. They have a 100-lb. German Shepherd dog along and hope to be joined by three other Sasquatch hunters later.

COMPUTER SURVEY COMPLETED

JOHN GREEN writes (August 6, 1970) : "The computer survey is finally completed, with some 290 plus questionnaires filled in, although probably a quarter of them were put together from information already at hand rather than current interviews. With more time and money the number could have been a good deal higher, but if the technique proves promising at all we can always start in again."

SASQUATCH MASQUERADE

JOHN GREEN writes (August 6, 1970): "Last Monday we had the first example I have encountered of a deliberate masquerade. A group of scouts at a camp sneaked out after 10 P.M. with a dark blue turtle neck sweater and toque, and one of them would don these so that only his eyes showed and stand in the road when a car came along, and then run into the bush. It doesn't sound like much of a costume but it was effective enough at night for the occupants of one vehicle to report that they had seen either a Sasquatch or an ape and that it had run off faster than any human could run. If any of the others were fooled I haven't heard of it. Fortunately the camp was still there when I went to check (about fifteen miles from here and one of the witnesses was a friend of mine). If the boys had gone home I guess we'd still be looking for tracks. It was a dangerous thing for the kids to do. One man said he would have shot the thing if they had had a gun."

The Editor apologizes for his delay in answering mail. A great pile of letters accumulated while he spent a week at the Basin Gulch camp-site. All mail will be answered as soon as possible. He also apologizes for his failure to include many news items in this issue sent in by subscribers due to lack of room.